



Executive Directive 8 (2005)

CURBING METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURE AND USE

Importance of the Issue

Methamphetamines are a growing problem nationwide. This illegal substance is problematic both in its effect on users and in the consequences of its manufacture. Methamphetamine labs endanger all around them, create toxic waste, and are clear threats to public safety and health. Methamphetamine use itself is linked to a wide range of health problems.

The State Health Commissioner has made a compelling case that sufficient cause exists for him to declare that methamphetamines constitute an imminent danger to the public health for which corrective action must be taken. The Superintendent of the State Police has likewise determined that methamphetamines constitute a significant public safety problem. Prudence dictates that steps be taken immediately to address this problem in Virginia before it reaches the magnitude seen in some states.

Methamphetamines are manufactured using a variety of precursor ingredients, many of which are found in legal, over-the-counter medications. A growing number of states are taking action to limit access to these precursor ingredients. A majority of states have now imposed some limitations on retailing of these products or are considering such limits. Virginia needs to take similar steps to protect the public health and safety and to avoid becoming a haven for the manufacture of methamphetamines.

Regulation on the Sale of Precursor Ingredients

While many retailers have taken voluntary steps to limit the sale of precursor ingredients for methamphetamines, a uniform approach is needed. Accordingly, based on my consultation with the State Health Commissioner and the Superintendent of State Police and based on their best professional advice, I direct the following:

1. That the State Health Commissioner issue by September 15, 2005, an order limiting quantities that can be purchased of the precursor ingredients most

commonly and easily used in manufacture of methamphetamines, restricting access to the targeted products by moving them behind the counter or otherwise securing them, requiring identification for purchase of the targeted products, and requiring a record of purchases to be maintained. This regulation shall be effective no later than October 1, 2005, and shall be in effect until July 1, 2006.

2. That the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, the Superintendent of State Police, the State Health Commissioner, and the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services shall develop further comprehensive educational efforts to help curb methamphetamine use.

3. That the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services shall develop a plan for treatment for methamphetamine addiction, working with local community services boards and local law enforcement.

Effective Date of the Executive Directive

This Executive Directive shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until July 1, 2006, unless amended or rescinded by further executive directive.

Given under my hand this 1st day of September 2005.

Mark R. Warner, Governor